

CLAIMS

- 1        1. A variable speed maximal torque transmission comprising:
  - 2            a planetary gear set comprising a peripheral ring gear enmeshing a plurality of planet gears and a sun gear in mechanical communication with said plurality of planet gears;
  - 5            a carrier in mechanical communication with said planetary gear set;
  - 6            a motor in mechanical drive communication with said sun gear; and
  - 7            an auxiliary motor driving said peripheral ring gear.
- 1        2. The transmission of claim 1 wherein said carrier enmeshes said plurality of planet gears.
- 1        3. The transmission of claim 1 wherein said ring gear rotates at constant speed.
- 1        4. The transmission of claim 1 wherein said plurality of planet gears is three planet gears.
- 1        5. The transmission of claim 1 wherein said carrier is an output from the transmission.

1           6.       The transmission of claim 1 wherein said carrier is coupled to a drive  
2       wheel of a vehicle.

1           7.       The transmission of claim 1 wherein said auxiliary motor imparts  
2       power to said peripheral ring gear to satisfy the relationship  $Tr \geq Ts \cdot \frac{Nr}{Ns}$  where Tr is  
3       ring gear torque, Ts is sun gear torque, Nr is ring gear tooth number and Ns is sun  
4       gear tooth number.

1           8.       A process for operating a transmission comprising:  
2       turning a planetary gear set with an auxiliary motor through a mechanical  
3       engagement of a toothed ring gear encompassing a set of planet gears where said set  
4       of planet gears simultaneously engages a toothed sun gear; and  
5       driving a carrier mechanically engaging said planetary gear set.

1           9.       The process of claim 8 wherein said planetary gear set is turned at a  
2       variable speed.

1           10.      The process of claim 8 wherein said carrier is a transmission output  
2       operative to power a drive wheel of a vehicle.

1            11. The process of claim 8 wherein turning said planetary gear set induces  
2 a torque on said carrier by way of a torque on said sun gear that satisfies the equation

$$TRatio = \frac{Tc}{Ts} = \frac{-(Rs + Rr)}{Rs} = -\left(1 + \frac{Nr}{Ns}\right)$$

3 where Tc is the carrier torque, Ts is the sun gear torque, Nr is the tooth number of  
4 said ring gear, and Ns is the tooth number of said sun gear.